

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, comprising:

performing analysis of electronic activities conducted by a network user;

inferring an intent to execute a transaction by said network user; and

executing said transaction on behalf of said network user;

wherein said analysis includes:

comparing said electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities; and

applying user-defined policies to said electronic activities.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said electronic activities include at least one of:

accessing a web site;

performing a detectable user action on a web page;

drafting an email;

searching a web-based electronic search engine;

accessing a personal information calendar;

entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder;

and

creating, editing, or viewing a document.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said comparing said electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities further comprises:

collecting data entered by said network user;

parsing said data by comparing said data to data stored in a database containing said previously-conducted electronic activities, said parsing resulting in a suggested electronic transaction for execution;

searching said database for related resources associated with said suggested electronic transaction; and

searching a profile database storing policies and rules created by said network user, said policies and rules operable for specifying conditions for authorizing and executing said suggested electronic transaction;

wherein said policies and rules include at least one of:

placing an upper limit on an amount of money that is authorized to be spent on a transaction;

placing a time limit on when a transaction may be executed;

prescribing authorized vendors, suppliers, or entities through which a transaction may be entered; and

specifying delivery options for items and services associated with a transaction.

4. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

searching a service/product database to ensure said items and services associated with said transaction are available.

5. The method of claim 3, further comprising:

searching a service/product database to ensure that said items and services associated with said transaction are compatible with said transaction.

6. The method of claim, 1 further comprising:

generating an electronic invoice upon execution of said transaction; and
notifying said network user that said transaction has been completed.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein said notification is sent via an application programming interface.

8. The method of claim 6, wherein said notification is sent via at least one of:

an email program on a computer device;

a pager;

a telephone call via a voice network;

a computer-generated voice messaging system over a telephone line;

a call on a mobile wireless device;

a personal digital assistant; and

an instant message program.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein said previously-conducted electronic activities include at least one of:

an occurrence of a meeting including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;

a web site search;

an electronic purchase;

an email message received or transmitted by said network user;

a calendar item generated or accessed by said network user; and

a task item generated or accessed by said network user.

10. A storage medium comprising machine-readable computer program code for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, the storage medium including instructions for causing a computer to implement a method comprising:

performing analysis of electronic activities conducted by a network user;
inferring an intent to execute a transaction by said network user; and
executing said transaction on behalf of said network user;

wherein said analysis includes:

comparing said electronic activities with previously-conducted
electronic activities; and

applying user-defined policies to said electronic
activities.

11. The storage medium of claim 10, wherein said electronic activities include at least one of:

accessing a web site;
performing a detectable action on a web page;
drafting an email;
searching a web-based electronic search engine;
accessing a personal information calendar;
entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder;
and
creating, editing, or viewing a document.

12. The storage medium of claim 10, wherein said comparing said electronic activities with previously-conducted electronic activities further comprises:

collecting data entered by said network user;

parsing said data by comparing said data to data stored in a database containing said previously-conducted electronic activities, said parsing resulting in a suggested electronic transaction for execution;

searching said database for related resources associated with said suggested electronic transaction; and

searching a profile database storing policies and rules created by said network user, said policies and rules operable for specifying conditions for authorizing and executing said suggested electronic transaction;

wherein said policies and rules include at least one of:

placing an upper limit on an amount of money that is authorized to be spent on a transaction;

placing a time limit on when a transaction may be executed;

prescribing authorized vendors, suppliers, or entities through which a transaction may be entered; and

specifying delivery options for items and services associated with a transaction.

13. The storage medium of claim 12, further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

searching a service/product database to ensure said items and services associated with said transaction are available.

14. The storage medium of claim 12, further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

searching a service/product database to ensure that said items and services associated with said transaction are compatible with said transaction.

15. The storage medium of claim, 10 further comprising instructions for causing said computer to implement:

generating an electronic invoice upon execution of said transaction; and
notifying said network user that said transaction has been completed.

16. The storage medium of claim 15, wherein said notification is sent via an application programming interface.

17. The storage medium of claim 15, wherein said notification is sent via at least one of:

an email program on a computer device;

a pager;

a telephone call via a voice network;

a computer-generated voice messaging system over a telephone line;

a call on a mobile wireless device;

a personal digital assistant; and

an instant message program.

18. The storage medium of claim 10, wherein said previously-conducted electronic activities include at least one of:

an occurrence of a meeting including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;

a web site search;

an electronic purchase;

an email message received or transmitted by said network user;

a calendar item generated or accessed by said network user; and

a task item generated or accessed by said network user.

19. A system for automating recurrent electronic transactions conducted over a network, comprising:

a purchasing system including:

a customer input module operable for receiving data input from a network user, said data input relating to electronic activities conducted by said network user;

an input parsing module operable for receiving said data input, said input parsing module interpreting said data input;

a context database in communication with said input parsing module;

wherein said input parsing module compares said data input with data provided in said context database resulting in a suggested electronic transaction; and

wherein further, said context database stores data relating to previously-conducted electronic activities by said network user;

a service/product arrangement module operable for selecting resources relating to said suggested electronic transaction; and

a personal policy module and policy database, said personal policy module operable for receiving specific rules and policies entered by said network user, said specific rules and policies relating to authorization of potential electronic transactions for execution; and

a link to a network computer, said network computer operated by said network user.

20. The system of claim 19, wherein said purchasing system further includes:

a purchasing and billing module operable for generating invoices relating to executed electronic transactions;

a service/product capabilities module and service/product database operable for identifying available items and services available for execution; and

a user output module, said user output module operable for generating notification of successful execution of electronic transactions.

21. The system of claim 19, wherein said electronic activities comprises at least one of:

accessing a web site;

performing a detectable action on a web page;

drafting an email;

searching a web-based electronic search engine;

accessing a personal information calendar;

entering a new task or accessing an existing task in an electronic task folder;

and

creating, editing, or viewing a document.

22. The system of claim 20, wherein said notification is sent to said network user via at least one of:

an email program on a computer device;

a pager;

a telephone call via a voice network;

a computer-generated voice messaging system over a telephone line;

a call on a mobile wireless device;

a personal digital assistant; and

an instant message program.

23. The system of claim 19, wherein said purchasing system is executed via an application programming interface on said network computer.

24. The system of claim 19, wherein said previously-conducted electronic activities include at least one of:

an occurrence of a meeting including parameters comprising:

a number of participants;

a meeting location;

a time of day; and

meeting resources and materials;

a web site search;

an electronic purchase;

an email message received or transmitted by said network user;

a calendar item generated or accessed by said network user; and

a task item generated or accessed by said network user.